APPENDIX

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REPORT ON THE 27th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MANUSCRIPT SOCIETY
Washington, D.C., September 4-7, 1974

About 300 members of the Manuscript Society met in Washington, D.C., on September 4-7 for the Society's 27th Annual Meeting. The Sheraton-Carlton Hotel was headquarters for the Society, an international organization of collectors, curators, historians, and dealers in autographs and manuscripts.

On Wednesday morning, September 5, members of the Manuscript Society visited the Larz Anderson House, 2118 Massachusetts Ave., the home of the Society of the Cincinnati. John D. Kilbourne, Director, explained the origins of the Society, which was founded in June 1783, shortly after the disbanding of the Continental Army. (An organization of its officers who had formed lasting friendships through service together had been suggested by Gen. Henry Knox.) At the headquarters of Baron von Steuben near Fishkill, N.Y., the organization was established with George Washington as its first President. It was named in honor of Cincinnatus, the Roman dictator, an allusion to the approaching return of the officers to civil pursuits. Mr. Kilbourne also mentioned the donation of the Anderson House and its treasures to the Society.

Members were then permitted to view specially-arranged manuscript items pertaining to the founding of the Society (most of these items had been returned to the Society in 1973 after having been on restricted deposit in the Library of Congress since 1930). Also on view were many donated items of painting, sculpture, glass, furniture, rugs, dioramas, and other examples of the decorative and fine arts.

Kenneth W. Rendell, President of the Manuscript Society, presided at the Annual Business Meeting which was held at the Sheraton-Carlton Hotel during a luncheon meeting on September 5. P. William Filby, Director of the Maryland Historical Society and Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported for the committee, and the following officers were elected: Rodney Armstrong, Boston, Mass., President; H. Bartholomew Cox, Oxon Hill, Md., and William Matheson, Chief of LC's Rare Book Division, Vice-Presidents; and Audrey S. Arellanes, Pasadena, Calif., Steven Lee Carson, Washington, D.C., Barbara S. McCrimmon, Tallahassee, Fla., Mary C. Schlosser, Greenwich, Conn., Paul G. Sifton, Specialist in Early American History in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, and G. Thomas Tanselle, Madison, Wis., Directors.

Committee reports included the Publications and American Revolution Bicentennial Committees. Herbert Klingelhofer of Bethesda, Md., Chairman of the Publications Committee, and Edmund Berkeley, Jr., of Charlottesville, Va., editor of a Society-sponsored book on manuscript collecting, reported on the progress made to date and solicited questions, comments, and suggestions on the project. John A. Castellani of Mount Vernon, Chairman of the Society's American Revolution Bicentennial Committee, reported that the Society's traveling exhibit of Revolutionary War manuscripts has been well received. The exhibit, currently in Anchorage, Alaska, will shortly be mounted in Jackson, Miss. The next scheduled meeting of the Manuscript Society is to be held on May 7-10, 1975, in Austin, Tex.

On Thursday afternoon, September 5, some 200 delegates gathered in a briefing room of the Executive Office Building to hear descendants of eight U.S. Presidents read from their ancestors' writings. The meeting had originally been scheduled in the White House, but President Ford preempted the meeting place for the first in a series of meetings on the National economy. Mrs. Ford, who welcomed the Manuscript Society members, departed from her prepared text to remark, "The President sometimes gets in ahead of me like that." To make amends, she invited the delegates to return to the White House on Saturday afternoon for an unscheduled private visit, under the supervision of Clement Conger, Curator of the White House.

The program began with John Augustine Washington, a collateral descendant of the first President, reading from several of George Washington's messages. Other readers, all direct descendants, were Thomas B. Adams, reading from letters and writings of John Adams and John Quincy Adams; Thomas Jefferson Eppes, who read a long philosophical letter from Thomas Jefferson to James Madison; William Henry Harrison V and his son, John Scott Harrison, who read from the writings of William Henry Harrison and Benjamin Harrison, respectively; Webb C. Hayes, reading from Rutherford B. Hayes; and Eleanor Roosevelt Seagraves, who read several writings of

her grandfather, Franklin D. Roosevelt. Kermit Roosevelt, Jr., scheduled to read, was unable to attend.

Steven Lee Carson, who was presiding, asked Mrs. Seagraves, the only descendant present who had actually lived in the White House, to characterize the experience. She did so in a very charming way, summoning up visions of an idyllic time a generation ago when a Presidential granddaughter could slip away for an hour or two unattended to shop at "Woodies or Garfinckel's."

Accompanied by most of the Presidential descendants, the group left the Executive Office Building for Mount Vernon, the grounds of which were opened for a special out-of-hours tour. For some, the tour was made even more delightful because John Augustine Washington, Washington family historian and genealogist, responded informatively to questions about "The General," the estate, and the preservation and operation of Mount Vernon by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union. A special exhibit was on display in the administrative building which included documents dated 1601-1799, including the original patent for Mount Vernon land, 1674, one of the two surviving letters of George to Martha Washington written just before he took command of the Continential Army in Cambridge, and a letter from Tobias Lear to his mother describing the death of George Washington. After the tour, the group dined in the colonial atmosphere of the Mount Vernon Inn.

Friday morning was devoted to a visit to the National Archives and Records Service (NARS). James B. Rhoads, Archivist of the United States, speaking in the Archives' fifth floor theater, extended his welcome to the members of the Society. This was followed by a panel discussion of the question: "Who Owns Presidential Papers?" John McDonough, of the Library of Congress Manuscript Division, who served as chairman, reviewed the opinions held by earlier Presidents with regard to the ownership of their papers and provided an overview of the experience of the Library of Congress in administering the 23 Presidential collections in its custody. Richard Jacobs, Deputy Assistant Archivist for Presidential Libraries, NARS, and former head of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library, drew upon his experience in discussing the situation that has prevailed since the establishment of the system of Presidential Libraries, as administered by the National Archives. The final speaker was R. Gordon Hoxie, formerly President of C.W. Post College and Chancellor of Long Island University. Mr. Hoxie, who in recent years has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for the Study of the Presidency, located in New York City, discussed the several Presidential collections that are held by non-Federal repositories. An extended question-and-answer period was devoted largely to current opinions on ownership and to considerations for the future.

The visit to the Archives concluded with a viewing of a special manuscript exhibit, which features the original Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights.

Open to the Manuscript Society on Friday afternoon, September 6, through the generosity of its owners, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Prendergast, was Oak Hill, the site of an address on the 150th anniversary of the Monroe Doctrine by Milton O. Gustafson, Chief, Diplomatic Records Branch, National Archives. For the first time in 150 years, the Monroe Doctrine was returned to Oak Hill and displayed for the Society.

The house itself was reportedly designed by Thomas Jefferson for President Monroe on land inherited by Monroe in 1805. Monroe lived at Oak Hill until 1830 and the ideas for the Monroe Doctrine were outlined in a letter written from the estate. Oak Hill is a private home and not open to the public.

The program on Saturday morning, September 7, was held at the Library of Congress. The speaker was Barbara Ringer, Register of Copyrights, who spoke on "Manuscripts and Copyright." Miss Ringer described relevant parts of the Copyright Revision bill and their probable effects on the collection and care of manuscripts utilizing wide-ranging but specific illustrations drawn from case histories and current events, not excluding the topic of the previous day, the ownership of Presidential papers. Her address was followed by a lively and informative question-and-answer period. John C. Broderick, Assistant Chief of the Manuscript Division, welcomed the delegates to the Library and presided at the morning session.

Following the Coolidge Auditorium segment of the program, visitors viewed a special exhibit in the foyer, where the music manuscripts usually on view were joined by manuscript treasures of the Library in the Manuscript and Rare Book Divisions. Coffee and refreshments were served in the Whittall Pavilion, from which, in groups of 10, visitors were given conducted tours of the Manuscript Division. The rest of the morning was spent viewing permanent exhibits in the Main Building, examining the Library publications and greeting cards at the Information Counter, and marveling at the ornate grandeur of the Great

Hall and the Main Reading Room.

After lunch, the members had their deferred tour of the White House. Mr. Conger had on display for the occasion the "Bliss Copy" of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and other memorabilia associated with 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. and its occupants through the years.

Later on Saturday afternoon the group was given a tour of the Washington Cathedral and visited the Rare Book Library. John Chalmers, Director of the Rare Book Library, welcomed the members and discussed the history and the purpose of the library. In addition to the manuscripts and illuminated books, the Cathedral's moon rock which will be mounted in a stained glass window of the Cathedral was on display.

Still later on Saturday afternoon George M. Barringer, Special Collections Librarian at Georgetown University, greeted the Society and described the development of the Georgetown University Library and the Division of Special Collections. Mr. Barringer mounted a special exhibit for the group which included a copy of William Catesby's *Natural History of the Carolinas, Florida and the Bahamas,* printed in London, 1731-43; the holograph manuscript of Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer;* and the working draft of the screen play of *The Exorcist* by William P. Blatty.

On the evening of September 7, members assembled for their final banquet in the Crystal Room of the Sheraton-Carlton Hotel. The speaker was Alwyn Cole, former Chief Document Analyst, U.S. Department of the Treasury, who spoke on "Forgeries: Questions About Documents." Mr. Cole recounted several of his exploits which included the verification of purported Button Gwinnett signatures; the identification of the handwriting of Bruno Richard Hauptmann in the Lindbergh kidnapping case; and the deductive entrapment of alleged Nazi spies in New York City during World War II. By using scientific analysis, circumstantial evidence, and deductive logic, Mr. Cole and other analysts are usually able to serve as unquestioned expert witnesses in judicial proceedings. To his questioners, Mr. Cole recommended the use of the same techniques to analyze their particular manuscript possessions. Mr. Cole also discounted the psychological and psychoanalytical claims of graphologists; he felt it particularly unscientific and dangerous to ascribe mental states to the handwriting of long-dead individuals.

After the main speaker, the Reverend David Herr Coblentz held the customary auction. This event closed the 1974 annual meeting. [*John C. Broderick, John McDonough, Marilyn K. Parr, Paul G. Sifton,* and *Carolyn H. Sung*]